

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the instant application.

Claims 9 and 12 have been amended herewith.

Newly added Claim 28 has been withdrawn by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicants submit no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Claims 1-9, 13 and 28 have been cancelled herewith, without prejudice.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the invention described therein.-

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and further submit this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment, wherein Claim 13 has been cancelled

Claims 1-5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Coopridier *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,571,617). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and further submit this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment, wherein Claims 1-5 and 13 have been cancelled

Claims 1-6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Delgado *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,508,313). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and further submit this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment, wherein Claims 1-6 and 13 have been cancelled

Claims 1-5, 8 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mallya *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,656,705). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and further submit this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment, wherein Claims 1-5, 8 and 13 have been cancelled

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Delgado *et al.*, Morris *et al.*, or Cantor *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the

rejection and further submit this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment, wherein Claim 7 has been cancelled

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooprider *et al.* or Mallyo *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and further submit this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment, wherein Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled

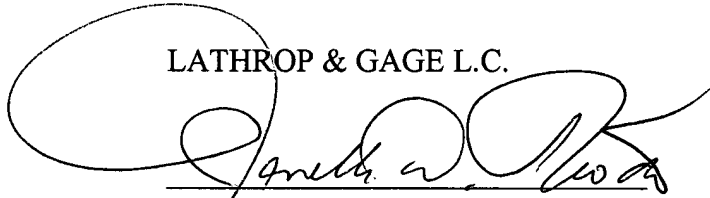
Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 9 and 12 if these claims were to be re-written in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 9 and 12 herewith in order to comply with the Examiner's request in this regard.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janelle D. Strode", is written over a horizontal line.

Janelle D. Strode, Reg. No. 34,738
Lathrop & Gage L.C.
2345 Grand Boulevard
Suite 2800
Kansas City, MO 64108-2612
Tel: (816) 460-5859
Fax: (816) 292-2001
Attorney for Applicants